

Cross-Culture Interpretations

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Group Activity

- Divide into 5 cross-country groups
- When you see a photo, discuss among your group of what your interpretations/ different understandings of the photo. (10 minutes)
- Share your thoughts to all of us (10 minutes for each group)

1. Japan

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Chopsticks straight up in rice bowl means death in Japanese culture because it is like the sticks of incense in a bowl used to honor the dead.

2. China

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If you give a man a green hat, it tells him
that your wife is having an affair.

3. India

3. India

A person who opens a gift in front of the person who has given it considered immature and greedy.

4. Philippines

4. Philippines

If you eat all of your food on your plate, it means you want more food.

5. Russia

5. Russia

Russians don't smile or talk to strangers and don't interpret this behavior as coldness or unfriendliness.

6. USA

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- Young couples often go out together without having a group around them. Young people are encouraged to be independent and be responsible for their own behaviors.
- Especially in big cities, Inter-racial relationships are acceptable.

Misunderstandings at Home

- What about minority groups in your own country?
- Do people have stereotypes about them?

What have you learned?

- Each culture has its own interpretations
- It is important for each of us to respect one another by acknowledging their customs.
- How can you avoid misunderstandings?
 - If you are going to another country, please read about their customs before you go.
 - Don't be afraid to ask a person and ask for an explanation
 - Be sensitive to their expressions and if you think something is wrong, ask.

Leadership

- You will be leaders in your own country among deaf groups, therefore it is your responsibility to learn and educate others about the cross-culture interpretations.
- Your attitude will influence other people's thinking so be careful about your interpretations.

Homework!

- Keep in mind that on Thursday, we will focus on differences between deaf cultures and deaf and hearing interactions.
- We will be asking each country group to come up with a role play about possible misunderstandings in your country. (5 minutes)
You can pick either:
 - Misunderstandings between deaf people in different countries
 - Misunderstandings in your own country between deaf and hearing